

September 28, 2009

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 7:00 p.m. on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Board member Fuelling was not present. Others attending were Supt. Gray; Chief Beloit; Chief Waters; David and Judy Whitten; Bob Boerner; Andy Hoehn; Farmersville Boy Scout Pack #372; Pam Robinson – Posey County News; and arriving during the meeting, Supt. Givens; and Larry Williams.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Board member Curtis moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Board member Askren.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented.

Board member Higgins moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*CLAIMS\*\*\*\*\*

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the report of the Water Chairman.

Chairman Curtis stated he has no report. Everything is running smoothly.

Supt. Gray stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked about the Financial Report.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied she received that late last week and will get it to them.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Board ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

Board member Hoehn questioned if Supt. Gray was able to get any quotes on time clocks, as they discussed at their last meeting.

Supt. Gray replied he can get a digital time clock for \$419; he would need two. He then stated the racks to put the clocks on run \$125 each and the time cards themselves, around \$50. He then asked if there is a problem or complaint ? He stated other departments have time sheet and 99A's instead of time clocks.

Board member Hoehn replied the sewer department has a time clock.

Supt. Gray agreed but added they turn in their time sheets to Miss Bennett for payroll, not the time cards.

Board member Higgins stated she was wondering what they would do if they had a big leak and got called out – they would have to go clock in first, etc. She added Miss Bennett watches their time to the penny.

Supt. Givens arrived at the meeting.

Larry Williams arrived at the meeting.

Supt. Gray added State Board of Accounts does not require a time clock and they have never had an issue with how their time is kept.

Board member Hoehn stated if the Board is looking at making rate changes/increases, they need to show responsibility and documentation is a big part of that. Time clocks do that for you.

Board member Curtis agreed and added the County is also making a push for installing time clocks. He added it would make things run more efficiently, but Board member Higgins has a good point as well.

Board member Hoehn stated that is true, but there are ways of adjusting that. She added she does not want to put any red tape in front of someone's job.

Board member Higgins stated she feels they already have a system of checks and balances in place, as two people check the time that is handed it and Supt. Gray signs off on it.

Board member Askren agreed.

Board member Hoehn stated her vote is for a time clock.

Board member Curtis stated it appears the cost will run anywhere between \$980 and \$1,000 to install these time clocks, and with only 11 employees currently, he does not see the need for it at this point.

He added if there are some allegations or concerns, yes, but not just to do it.

Board member Askren agreed.

Board member Higgins agreed, it does not need to be done until there is a need.

Board member Askren stated she also agrees, unless there has been a complaint or an issue, and right now there is no issue and this would just be an added expense.

Board member Curtis stated with only 11 employees, Supt. Gray should know what they are working.

Board member Higgins agreed.

Mayor Tucker asked if Board member Hoehn's "vote" was a motion ?

Board member Hoehn replied no, just her feeling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was anything further ?

There was nothing.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

Board member Curtis reported Supt. Gray indicated they are taking advantage of the streets being torn up to do some work.

Supt. Gray added that is correct they are repairing fire hydrants. He stated ones with white tops are actually bad mains and they are trying to correct that situation.

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Board member Askren moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

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John Tucker  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cristi L. Wolfe  
Clerk-Treasurer

The Common Council met immediately following the Water Utility Board on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Councilman Fuelling was not present. Others attending were Supt. Gray; Chief Beloat; Chief Waters; David and Judy Whitten; Bob Boerner; Andy Hoehn; Farmersville Boy Scout Pack #372; Aaron Burke – Bernardin Lochmueller & Associates; Pam Robinson – Posey County News; Supt. Givens; and Larry Williams.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented.

Councilwoman Askren moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Standing Committees.

Street & Light Chairwoman Hoehn stated she has no report.

Mayor Tucker stated Comm. Maynard does not appear to be present. He then asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Police & Dog Chairwoman Askren stated she has no report.

Chief Beloat stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Fire Chairman Fuelling was not present.

Chief Waters stated he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Sewer Chairwoman Higgins stated she has no report but Aaron Burke of Bernardin Lochmueller is present with an update.

Mr. Burke stated construction is completed on Water to Sawmill; 3350 linear feet of the 3500 linear feet of the project. He added work at E & S Housing has not started yet, but it will begin soon; the Street Department building is completed; and manhole rehab is done. He stated the work on the manholes was great, he is impressed. He added Sawmill tie-ins have to be completed and once done, the CSO will officially be abandoned. He continued by stating the 12" force main from Sawmill is not finished, and there will be a change order on that. He stated there is some clean up work left to do, along with some minor manhole rehabilitation. He then stated there are some change orders outstanding, and they are in negotiations on them. If all change orders are approved the cost of the project would be \$1.7M and their original estimate was between \$1.8M and \$2M. He concluded by stating the contractor thinks they will be done by the end of October, but he feels more comfortable with the first of November; and Phase II design work is commencing. He asked if there were any questions ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Council ?  
Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker stated on the legal portion of the Agenda is a Public Hearing on the Ordinance of Appropriations and Tax Rates for the City of Mount Vernon, IN for the Year Ending December 31, 2010. He then asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Council on the proposed budget for 2010 ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker stated as there is no one wanting to address the Council on the ordinance, he will now close the Public Hearing. He then requested action on the ordinance.

Councilman Curtis moved the ordinance pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Askren.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – absent; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated the next item for consideration is 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the proposed Ordinance Establishing Salaries and Wages for Employees and Appointed Officers of the City of Mount Vernon, IN for the Year Ending December 31, 2010. He added this is the 2010 Salary Ordinance.

Councilwoman Askren moved the ordinance pass 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – absent; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated the Ordinance of Additional Appropriations in the General, COIT, and MVHF Funds is now up for first reading.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe stated she will answer any questions the Council may have, though she did also submit a cover letter in their packets concerning this ordinance.

Councilman Curtis stated due to the fact that this ordinance concerns the employee health insurance (COIT), he feels they need to move forward, though he does have some questions on other parts of the ordinance. Again, he stated in order to facilitate this and move things along, he will move the ordinance pass first reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Higgins.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?

Councilwoman Hoehn asked about the COIT paying the employee health insurance and if that is what the money was going for ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe explained the only line item in the COIT budget is the employee health insurance line. She stated the budget was originally figured on the low side as they were unsure how much COIT money they would be receiving each month, they have plenty of cash, and they just need to appropriate it so the budget will not go over.

Councilwoman Hoehn questioned dog pound fees, as the Dog Pound is seeking a \$5,000 additional into line 312.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied Kempfs Critters, where the dogs that are picked up are taken, charges the city \$6 per day for every dog. She stated their bills so far this year have ranged from a low of \$600 to upwards of \$1400; and this is also the line the vet bills are paid from.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked if the city recoups any of this money ?

Chief Beloit stated once a dog is picked up, it costs the owner \$10 to get the dog back – that fee covers the sheltering of the dog for one day, etc. He then stated many, many times the dogs are not picked up.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe agreed and added there are many months that no dog pound fees are collected at all.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any further discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – absent; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated the final item is a possible first reading on the Vac Con Truck Usage Rate Fee Ordinance. He stated he has not seen that as yet and they will table any action for now.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

David Whitten approached and stated with all the community events that have been going on, and continue to go on, he suggests the city try to implement an events calendar on the website to keep people informed of what is going on and when. He added this could also help prevent numerous, similar events being held on the same weekend. He stated perhaps this could be handled through the Mayor's office, or via an appointment by the Mayor. He then stated with all of the progress being made on Water Street, he wondered about the possibility of having the trees removed from the river bank from the silo area, down.

Councilwoman Higgins stated she is not sure that is city land.

Mayor Tucker replied the lower area is not city land, it is owned by Mount Vernon Barge Service. He stated they may be willing to work with the city on that; but the city only owns the top area.

Councilwoman Hoehn questioned if the Army Corps of Engineers would need to be contacted about possible erosion by removing the trees ?

Councilwoman Higgins agreed that could be an issue.

Mayor Tucker stated he can contact them.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated she agrees with Mr. Whitten about the possibility of having the trees removed as it does go along with their plan. She also agrees that the Corps of Engineers should be contacted, and then contact made with Mount Vernon Barge.

Mayor Tucker stated taking the trees down should be no problem after they check on the erosion.

Councilman Curtis stated he is not sure what would happen there when the water comes up, if the trees being there would be a help or a hindrance. He added the absence of the trees would definitely enhance the view.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated she also feels the events calendar is a great idea.

Councilwomen Askren and Higgins both agreed.

Mayor Tucker stated they can definitely put items on the website if they know about them.

Mayor Tucker stated he would like to recognize Farmersville Boy Scout Pack #372 who is in the Audience this evening.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

Councilwoman Hoehn questioned the fire hydrants, if Council is supposed to act on that this evening ?

Councilman Curtis replied there is no ordinance drafted and this is the second estimate he has seen – going from an increase of 22% to now 19.9%, very little difference.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated on September 25 she received an email concerning the additional charge of \$7.42 per customer for hydrant rental.

Councilman Curtis stated he did not receive that.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked if they should table for now ?

Councilman Curtis replied he believes they should.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked what exactly hydrant rental is ?

Mayor Tucker stated the hydrants belong to the city, not a private entity.

Supt. Gray stated the fees are paid by the city for maintenance of the lines and the hydrants for the city's fire protection, and for the cost of water production.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated she does not understand then why that cost needs to increase, if it isn't for the water itself.

Supt. Gray replied it is currently being paid by the city and Council is looking at not having the city pay that anymore and instead pass it on to the customer.

Councilwoman Hoehn replied she understands that, what she doesn't understand is exactly what the rental is ? If it is for the lines and the plugs themselves why did those rates also go up ?

Supt. Gray replied that would be a question for Umbaugh.

Councilman Curtis agreed, as Umbaugh did the rate study, he is not sure himself of the justification for that.

Council agreed to table any further action.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Districts.

1<sup>st</sup> District Councilwoman Askren stated she has no report.

2<sup>nd</sup> District Councilman Fuelling was not present.

3<sup>rd</sup> District Councilwoman Hoehn stated she has no report.

4<sup>th</sup> District Councilman Curtis reported the repairs to the railroad crossing on Main Street are finished.

Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins stated she has no report.

Mayor Tucker stated if there were no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.  
Councilwoman Higgins moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn.  
Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

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John Tucker  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cristi L. Wolfep  
Clerk-Treasurer